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SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NEA/ARPI, NEA/PPD, NEA/P, INR/R/MR

LONDON FOR TSOU
PARIS FOR ZEYA
USCENTCOM FOR PLUSH
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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KPAO](#) [KMDR](#) [OIIP](#) [MU](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: NOBEL PRIZE, IRAN, MIDDLE EAST

No Bull: Nobel Is Noble

[1](#)1. The privately-owned Arabic daily "al-Watan" published an editorial on October 9 entitled "Has Alfred Nobel's Mission Been Achieved?":

"Granting the Nobel Peace Prize to the International Atomic Energy Agency and its director, Dr. Mohammed al-Baradei, is in itself a noble message. However, we have noticed that there are a few world leaders who try to subvert the IAEA's mission by saying that God has inspired them to wage war, or by saying that preemptive strikes are required to prevent terrorism. The awarding of the Nobel Prize should reinvigorate hope in international organizations like the IAEA so that they can work for the welfare of the entire world. The Middle East should be cleansed of all weapons of mass destruction, and the first target should be Israel's nuclear program."

The Pyongyang Model

[1](#)2. "Oman," the government-owned Arabic daily, ran an editorial on October 9 entitled "An Arab Initiative For Solving The Iranian Nuclear Dilemma":

"The Iranian nuclear dilemma has reached a critical stage. The Americans and the Israelis appear to have abandoned any possibility of a settlement through dialogue. Even the Arabs, who are nearest to this issue, seem content to merely express their concerns... In order to get out of this stalemate, the Arabs should call for a six-party dialogue in the mold of the North Korean negotiations. The six parties would be the Arab group, Europe, the United States, Turkey, Russia, and Iran. Such an Arab initiative might be the gate through which peace is achieved... It is true that the Iranian case is different from the Korean situation. But Iran can continue to threaten the region for more than a hundred years, and this is a strategic fact which should not be ignored."

Where There Is Smoke

[1](#)3. On October 8, "al-Watan" featured an editorial under the headline "Extinguishing The Fire In Iraq Doesn't Mean Setting The Middle East Ablaze":

"It seems that the lessons of the bloody invasion of Iraq have not produced stability or any other positive results in the area. Despite this, we hope that America and its allies are successful in protecting themselves from terrorist conspiracies. However, all indicators suggest that Washington is focusing now on the targeting of Syria and Iran, mostly to satisfy Israel. If Bush's popularity continues to plummet, it is possible that he will use the security of the Middle East as a tool to buttress the political campaigns of his party. But it is absurd to try and put out the fire in Iraq by igniting blazes in the rest of the Middle East."

BALTIMORE